



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MIMB Docket No. 1671-0289

J & J Reference: DEP 5209USNP

Application of: Cooper et al.

Group Art Unit: 3733

Serial No. 10/750,416

Examiner: M. Hoffman

Filed: December 31, 2003

For: External Bone/Joint Fixation Device

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 24, 2006

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**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 23, 2005, please enter the following: